



Division of Child Mental Health Services
Department of Services for Children Youth and Their Families
State of Delaware

PI 002 CLIENT INCIDENT REPORTING POLICY			
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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish reporting requirements, identification of accountability for timely and accurate reporting and investigation of incidents, clear reporting accountability and lines of communication. That commitment is integrated throughout the Division's behavioral healthcare network through the establishment of clinical and administrative risk management and risk containment functions, responsibilities and accountability of all network staff for maintaining clinical service standards and practices.

II. POLICY

The Division of Child Mental Health Services Leadership is committed to the provision and maintenance of client service environments that are safe and without unnecessary and foreseeable risks to the health and well-being of clients being served in our programs. To achieve that goal, DCMHS requires that all service providers in our DCMHS continuum of care provide, to the extent possible:

- immediate and appropriate clinical and administrative responsiveness to unanticipated adverse events involving our clients,
- formalized, timely and accurate client incident reporting,
- training of all Clinical Services, Program Administration, Training Unit, and Quality Improvement Unit staff in client incident reporting procedures, and
- development and implementation of performance improvement activities to address risks identified through analysis of critical incidents.

DCMHS holds responsibility for:

- establishment of clinical and administrative risk management and risk containment functions, responsibilities and accountability of all network staff for maintaining clinical service standards and practices,
- investigation and analysis of incidents, coordination and dissemination of incident information between DCMHS and sister Divisions (e.g., DFS Abuse/Neglect Reporting) and to the DSCYF Safety Council, as appropriate,
- training of all appropriate DCMHS staff in client incident reporting procedures, and
- identification and monitoring of required performance improvement activities identified through analysis of critical incidents.

III. SCOPE OF APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Clinical Services, Program Administration, Training Unit, and Quality Improvement Unit staff and DCMHS providers, at all levels of client services.

IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Providers of services to DCMHS clients have the primary responsibility for DCMHS clinical risk containment activities. It is the responsibility of direct care providers to make the client's condition known to the Division's Clinical Care Service Coordinators (Clinical Services Management Team) immediately following an incident. The providers assure, in a timely manner, the completion of an accurate written record of all action taken on behalf of their clients involved in all incidents which is to be sent to the DCMHS Quality Improvement Unit within 72 hours of the incident. Providers must complete, as part of their report, an appropriate corrective action plan if appropriate.

The DCMHS Quality Improvement Unit is charged with maintaining and improving the safety and wellbeing of clients served through the development and annual review of the DCMHS Incident Reporting Policy, development of incident reporting procedures, monitoring provider compliance with incident reporting requirements, and investigation of reported incidents. It is the Unit's responsibility to keep clinical and administrative staff regularly informed of individual and aggregate information on client incidents. Additionally, the Quality Improvement Unit provides annual, new employee, and special training on Incident Reporting procedures.

DCMHS Clinical Services Management Units are responsible for assuring that risk management activities are undertaken to identify, evaluate, and reduce the risk of injury to clients. It is the responsibility of Clinical Services Management staff to assure that incidents reported to the Division are timely, focused on pertinent and essential facts and causation, that actions immediately taken on behalf of the client are appropriate to the client's condition. Clinical Services Teams are required to notify the Quality Improvement Unit promptly upon receipt of notification of an incident.

The DCMHS Program Administration Unit is responsible for assuring that providers are in compliance with Division and Departmental incident reporting requirements.

The DCMHS Training Unit is responsible for scheduling and coordinating all Incident Reporting training for the Division and its provider staff. The training is to be conducted for new employees during orientation and for all other staff during the annual updates or whenever a major change in procedures occurs.

V. POLICY OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW

Division leadership oversight and review functions for the effective implementation of this policy are vested in the DCMHS Quality Management Committee.